

Appl. No. 10/004,510
Amdt. dated Nov. 10, 2003
Reply to Office action of June 9, 2003

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 9, 11, 12, 14 and 15 are amended, claims 10, 13 and 16 are canceled, and claims 9, 11, 12, 14 and 15 are pending.

The Examiner's indication that claims 10-11, 13-14 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form is noted with appreciation. Claims 10, 13 and 16 are cancelled, and their limitations are incorporated into independent claims 9, 12 and 15, respectively. Additional amendments are also made to claims 9, 12 and 15, support for which can be found in the application, for example, at page 7, lines 18-22.

Claims 9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,071,585 to Roth in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,324,153 to Chess. Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roth in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,350,342 to Steidinger et al. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9, 12 and 15, as presently recited, are not unpatentable over the cited references.

For the reasons set forth above, claims 9, 11, 12, 14 and 15 are believed to be allowable, and reconsideration and allowance of claims 9, 11, 12, 14 and 15 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

By: 

Jon A. Birmingham
Registration No. 51,222

Date: November 10, 2003
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
120 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Telephone: (312) 577-7000
Facsimile: (312) 577-7007